

Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Third International Conference on Big Data for Official Statistics. This year we find ourselves in the magnificent Dublin Castle thanks to the efforts of our excellent host, the Central Statistics Office of Ireland.

Since 2014, the Global Working Group (GWG) on Big Data for official statistics attempts to gradually and systematically tackle the challenges surrounding the use of a variety of Big Data sources. It is promising to see that the global statistical community already engaged with Big Data on a large number of pilot projects, as shown in the Big Data repository on the website of the GWG. Even so, we realize that much more needs to be done to fully benefit from Big Data in the routine production of official statistics.

For the three days of this Conference we chose three major themes, namely (1) Access to proprietary data and successful partnerships with data providers, (2) capacity building strategies for innovation in official statistics, and (3) use of Big Data as part of a blended mode to compile Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicators. Through these three themes we cover both the modernisation of the production of official statistics and the role of Big Data in the compilation of the indicators for the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

The program of the Conference contains prominent key note speakers, excellent panelists as well as a number of hands-on demonstrations and has been put together as a collective effort by the members of the GWG. I hope that you will find this program instructive and useful as well as enjoyable. With this third conference, we hope to take the next step on our important journey to keep official statistics relevant, while maintaining public trust and fulfilling the mandate to honor citizens' entitlement to the best available public information.

Wishing you all an excellent and fruitful stay in Dublin and looking forward to your active participation in the Conference,

With best regards,



Trevor Sutton

Deputy Australian Statistician and

Chair of the Global Working Group on Big Data for official statistics

